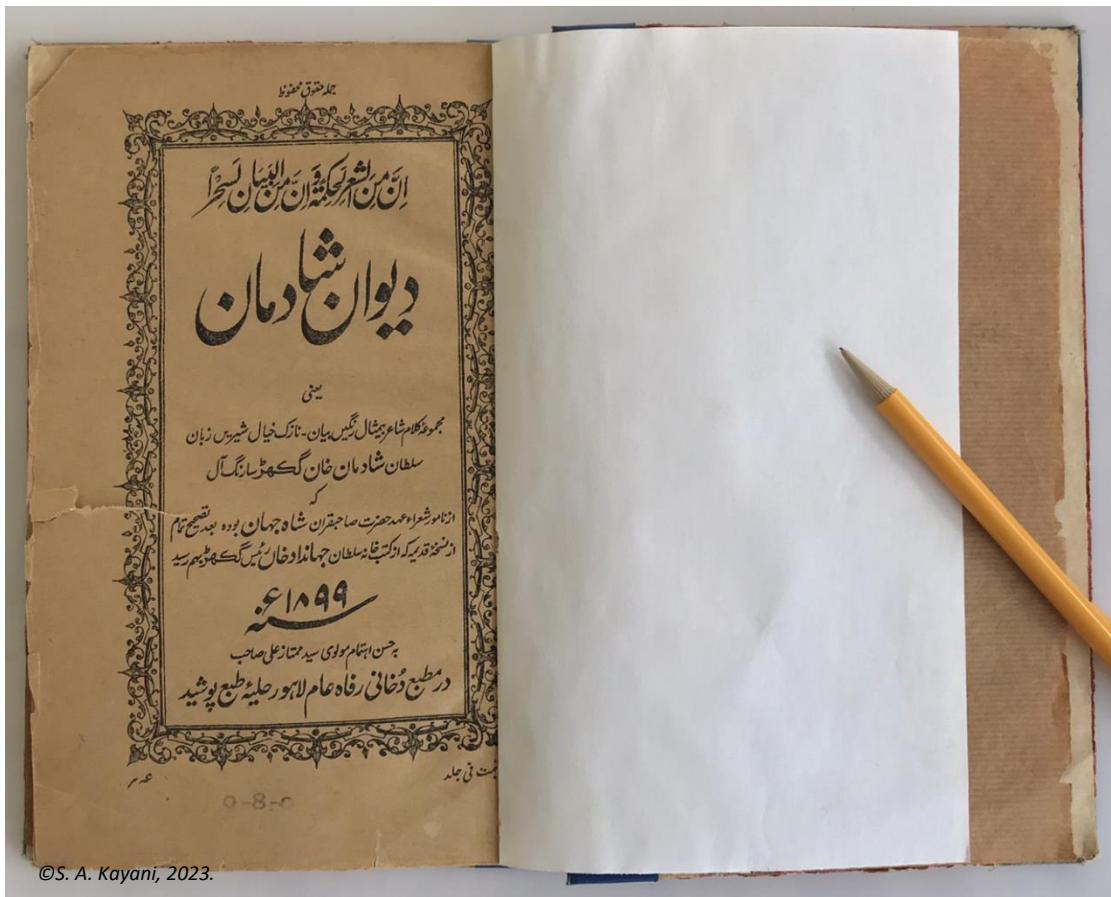


Historical Note on Sultan Shadman Khan, a Mughal Era Poet

Sultan Shadman Khan was a great grandson of Sultan Kamal Khan and for a while a mansabdar (of unknown rank). He received the parganah of Pharwala as fief for service to the Mughal emperor Jahangir (1569-1627). He was a contemporary of Sultan Akbar Quli Khan, son of Sultan Jalal Khan Gakkhar. An episode of disobedience or revolt has been ascribed to Sultan Shadman, which eventually led to his dismissal, loss of rank, and eviction from Pothohar. Sultan Akbar Quli had a role to play in subjugating this revolt by leading a military expedition against Sultan Shadman [1, 2].

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While Sultan Shadman Khan was not as successful as a mansabdar of the Mughal empire, he none the less possessed significant literary and poetic talents. He was a well known poet of Farsi during the reign of Mughal emperor Shah Jahan (1592-1666) and the early part of the reign of his son emperor Alamgir (1618-1707) [3, 4]. He composed and recited a ghazal in the royal court when emperor Shan Jahan took his seat on the famous Takht-i-Tavus for the first time in 1635. He also wrote and presented a qasida before emperor Alamgir on his ascension to

the throne in 1658. Alamgir has been reported to have liked some of the couplets of this qasida and ordered Sultan Shadman Khan to repeat them. But eventually he forbade Sultan Shadman from composing any more poetry deeming this art as useless [5].

Sultan Shadman Khan has been described as a shrewd individual and had a stammer. In later life, he adopted a life style of piety and spirituality. He passed away in 1668 [4]. His poetry has been compiled in the form of a diwan, which comprises of ghazals only. A manuscript of this diwan is retained in the collection of the Punjab University Library, Lahore [6]. Another manuscript of this diwan was available in the personal library of Sultan Jahandad Khan (Khanpur), who arranged for its publication in 1899 [7].

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